

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 A-01 FBO-01 SY-03 L-03 SS-20

NSC-07 SPC-03 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /116 W

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P R 261315Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3167

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 0525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, PBOR, PFOR, PGOV, GE, GW, US

SUBJECT: U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM'S VISIT TO EAST BERLIN

REF:

A. BERLIN 517

B. BERLIN 518

1. SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSIONS MARCH 25, US AND GDR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON CHANCERY SITE, AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND STAFF HOUSING, AS WELL AS ON TIME-TABLE FOR FUTURE TECHNICAL STEPS. EAST GERMANS WERE FORTHCOMING ON PRACTICALLY ALL ASPECTS OF U.S. REQUIREMENTS AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. U.S. SIDE STRESSED THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE SCHEDULED ONLY WHEN ALL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS HAD BEEN MET, AND REMINDED GDR THAT OPENING OF EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON AND EAST BERLIN WOULD HAVE TO BE SIMULTANEOUS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN ACTIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE SESSION ON MARCH 25,

U.S. AND GDR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING:

A. CHANCERY SITE-US DELEGATION STATED PREFERENCE FOR HAUS DES HANDWERKS, ON NEUSTADISCHE KIRCHSTRASSE, AS CHANCERY SITE, WHICH SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC ALTERATIONS CAME CLOSEST TO U.S. SPACE AND SECURITY NEEDS. U.S. TEAM OUTLINED IN DETAIL STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACE IN REAR OF BUILDING, REQUESTED THAT INDEPENDENT ANNEX CONTIGUOUS TO BUILDING BE INCLUDED IN PACKAGE, AND STATED THAT SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON RENTS WAS NECESSARY. GDR INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO RENOVATE BUILDING TO U.S. SPECIFICATIONS, LOOK INTO ADDITIONAL PARKING POSSIBILITIES, AND GIVE RENTAL DATA. GDR CLAIMED, HOWEVER, ANNEX COULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO U.S. AT THIS TIME. US EXPRESSED LONG-RANGE INTEREST IN ACQUIRING ANNEX AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

B. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE-U.S. REJECTED TSCHAICHOWSKISTRASSE RESIDENCES AS UNSATISFACTORY, BUT EXPRESSED READINESS TO ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY-STYLE ESTATE ON NORDENSTRASSE, PANKOW, SUBJECT TO CLOSER INSPECTION OF FLOOR PLANS, AGREEMENT TO RENTAL TERMS, AND REMODELING OF BUILDING TO OUR SPECIFICATIONS.

C. SENIOR STAFF RESIDENCES-U.S. TEAM ACCEPTED TENTATIVELY RENOVATED RESIDENCE AT HEINRICH MANN PLATZ, PANKOW, AND TWO HOUSES UNDER RECONSTRUCTION ON PFEILSTRASSE, PANKOW, BUT REJECTED AS OVERLY LARGE TWO NEWLY BUILT ESPALANADE-STYLE RESIDENCES ON WALDSTRASSE. U.S. REQUESTED THAT TWO ADDITIONAL HOUSES BE MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE OPENING OF EMBASSY AND FOUR MORE WITHIN 12 MONTHS THEREAFTER, OF PFEILSTRASSE TYPE OR NEW SINGLE- RESIDENCE DESIGN WHICH U.S. WAS SHOWN ON MARCH 25. GDR AGREED.

D. STAFF APARTMENTS-GDR AGREED TO MEET U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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INITIAL NEED AT TIME U.S. EMBASSY OPENS FOR SIX MODERN APARTMENTS OF TYPE SHOWN TO U.S. TEAM LAST AUGUST. GDR ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE U.S. WITH AT LEAST FOUR APARTMENTS IN DIPLOMATIC AREA TO BE BUILT NEAR CHECKPOINT CHARLIE ON LEIPZIGER STRASSE. IN ADDITION, GDR COMMITTED ITSELF TO MAKE 17 MORE APARTMENTS AVAILABLE LATER ON REQUEST.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 0525

E. U.S. AND GDR TEAMS ALSO REACHED TENTATIVE
AGREEMENT ON TIME-TABLE FOR NEXT STEP ALONG
FOLLOWING LINES:

A. GDR WILL PRESENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ALL
FLOOR PLANS AND STRUCTURAL AND TECHNICAL DETAILS
REQUESTED BY U.S. TEAM. ALONG WITH EACH PLAN WILL
BE ESTIMATE RENTAL FIGURES.

B. U.S. WILL REVIEW PLANS TO ASSURE U.S. NEEDS
MET AND SEND AN ARCHITECT TO EAST BERLIN TO DISCUSS
BUILDING AND RENOVATION DETAILS WITH GDR.

C. REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON PLANS BASED ON U.S.
NEEDS AND GDR CAPABILITIES.

D. ESTABLISH TIME-TABLE FOR COMPLETION OF EACH
CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION PROJECT.

E. MOVE TO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT
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OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: GDR TEAM SEEMED UNDER PRESSURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND PUSH FORWARD TO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS FORTHCOMING AND OFTEN IMAGINATIVE IN ITS EFFORT TO MEET SPECIFIC U.S. REQUESTS. GDR APPARENTLY EVEN LOWERED RENTAL FIGURE ESTIMATES ON CHANCERY SPACE IN ITS SEARCH TO BE ACCOMMODATING. BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST WEEKEND, WE WOULD EXPECT THE GDR TO PROVIDE REQUESTED PLANS QUICKLY AND SEEK TO SPEED THE EXTENSIVE REMODELING WORK WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED. IT WILL ALSO PROBABLY SOON MAKE A DECISION ABOUT PROPERTY IN WASHINGTON. IN SUM, THE GDR SEEMS ANXIOUS TO MOVE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND HAVE EMBASSIES OPENED IN BERLIN AND WASHINGTON IN 1974, AND WILL PUSH FOR EARLY POLITICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GDR FULLY UNDERSTANDS, BASED ON WHAT THE U.S. HAS SAID REPEATEDLY, THAT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS CAN COME ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, AND THAT THERE MUST BE COMPLETE SIMULTANEITY IN EVENTUAL OPENING OF US/GDR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.BORG

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